



HR0630

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to honor Dr. Gerhard Malcharek for
4 his service to his country and his many years of practice as a
5 dentist at the Murray Developmental Center in Centralia; and

6 WHEREAS, Gerhard Malcharek was born in Czechoslovakia (now
7 the Czech Republic) in 1932; and

8 WHEREAS, In the summers of 1943 and 1944, school boys in
9 seventh and eighth grades were utilized by the German Army to
10 prepare fortifications for the retreating German soldiers of
11 the Eastern Front; when the summers were over, the boys
12 returned to their respective schools; at the age of 13, Gerhard
13 Malcharek was pushed into service with the German Army, who
14 lied about his age to make him enlist; he was given tank
15 training and assigned as a tank driver; and

16 WHEREAS, Gerhard Malcharek was wounded in battle when
17 Soviet forces attacked his tank unit, causing shrapnel injuries
18 to his right foot and left leg; and

19 WHEREAS, After the war, Gerhard Malcharek was sent back to
20 the Soviet Union as a Prisoner of War to help the nation
21 rebuild until 1947, when he returned home to Czechoslovakia;

1 his family was subsequently forced out and they immigrated to
2 Germany; and

3 WHEREAS, Gerhard Malcharek was prohibited from entering
4 school because of his service in the war, placing a pause on
5 his lifetime dream of being a dentist; an American soldier
6 befriended the young Dr. Malcharek, encouraging him to go to
7 the United States, where he could go to school as much as he
8 wanted; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Malcharek was 21 years old in 1951 when he
10 immigrated to the United States, moving to Chicago; within 30
11 days of him arriving on American soil, he enlisted in the
12 United States Army as a Combat Engineer; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Malcharek served 2 tours in Korea with his
14 company building bridges and bunkers, creating mine fields, and
15 doing demolition work; in 1952, he was injured by shrapnel from
16 a land mine explosion and received the Purple Heart; he retired
17 as a Colonel; and

18 WHEREAS, After the Korean War, Gerhard Malcharek returned
19 to Chicago and used the G.I. Bill to enroll at a junior
20 college; he later transferred to Western Illinois University to
21 finish his bachelor of science; and

1 WHEREAS, Gerhard Malcharek still dreamed of becoming a
2 dentist, but faced difficulty being accepted to a dental school
3 because he was a poor immigrant; refusing to be deterred, he
4 took a job as a teacher at Marshall High School, near the
5 University of Illinois School of Dentistry in Chicago; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1961, Gerhard Malcharek's persistence paid off
7 and he was admitted to the University of Illinois School of
8 Dentistry in Chicago; he worked nights at an area hospital to
9 help pay for his education and went with little sleep between
10 long nights at work and long hours in the classroom; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Gerhard Malcharek's dream became a reality in
12 1966 when he was hired out of dental school to work for the
13 recently established Murray Center in Centralia; Dr. Malcharek
14 was the only dentist to care for the nearly 700 residents; Dr.
15 Malcharek and his wife then moved to Irvington, where they
16 still live today, and he practiced dentistry at the Murray
17 Developmental Center for 27 years until his retirement in 1992;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Gerhard Malcharek also practiced at a medical
20 center in Irvington 2 nights a week and on Saturdays; he also
21 served as a military reserve dentist for the 102nd Army Reserve
22 Command in St. Louis for 23 years; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Gerhard Malcharek and his wife have 2 children
2 who are also in the medical field; their daughter, Marianne
3 McDaniel, is an optometrist and their son, Paul Malcharek, is a
4 physician; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Gerhard Malcharek has overcome countless
6 obstacles in his life but never faltered from achieving his
7 dream to be a dentist; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
10 honor Dr. Gerhard Malcharek for his service to his country and
11 living his dreams alongside his wonderful family through the
12 practice of dentistry; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to Dr. Gerhard Malcharek as a symbol of our esteem
15 and respect.